

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A combination of clothing articles packaged for sale, comprising:

a shirt having a shirt collar;

a necktie disposed about the shirt collar and comprising a length of fabric having first and second ends and at least one fold intermediate the first and second ends;

an elastic band passing transversely to the length of fabric within the fold and sized to be stretchably received about the shirt collar; and

a clip engaged with the fabric proximate to the fold, the clip pinching the fabric so as to emulate the appearance of a tie knot.

2. (Withdrawn) The combination of clothing items of claim 1, wherein the elastic band passes continuously within the fold.

3. (Withdrawn) The combination of clothing items of claim 2, wherein the elastic band is a rubber band.

4. (Withdrawn) The combination of clothing items of claim 1, wherein the clip is generally U-shaped.

5. (Withdrawn) The combination of clothing items of claim 4, wherein the clip comprises a horizontal base and two fingers the two fingers being resiliently mounted on opposite sides of the base.

6. (Withdrawn) The combination of clothing items of claim 5, wherein the base further comprises a reinforcement.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging a necktie and shirt combination, comprising the steps of:

providing a shirt having a shirt collar;

providing a necktie comprising a length of fabric having first and second ends;

folding the necktie along a line transverse to the length of fabric and intermediate the first and second ends, to create at least one fold;

positioning an elastic band within the fold;

wrapping the elastic band around the shirt collar; and

pinching the necktie at a position proximate to the fold with a clip with the length of the fabric between the fold and the clip being exposed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, including the additional step of knotting the tie after the positioning step, wherein the knot defines a channel transverse to the length of the fabric and wherein the elastic band is further disposed within the channel.

9. (Original) A method for packaging a necktie and shirt combination, comprising the steps of:

providing a shirt having a shirt collar;

providing a necktie comprising a length of fabric having first and second ends;

knotting the necktie to create a knot with a channel therein, the channel being transverse to the length of fabric;

positioning an elastic band within the channel; and

wrapping the elastic band around the shirt collar.